## ● PRINTER RUSH ● (PTO ASSISTANCE)

ASSISTANCE)

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0023] The principles of the present invention and their advantages are best understood by referring to the illustrated embodiment depicted in FIGURE 1-57 of the drawings, in which like numbers designate like parts.

[0024] FIGURE 1A is a general overview of an audio information decoder 100 embodying the principles of the present invention. Decoder 100 is operable to receive data in any one of a number of formats, including compressed data in conforming to the AC-3 digital audio compression standard, (as defined by the United States Advanced Television System Committee) through a compressed data input port CDI. An independent digital audio data (DAI) port provides for the input of PCM, S/PDIF, or non-compressed digital audio data.

[0025] A digital audio output (DAO) port provides for the output of multiple-channel decompressed digital audio data. Independently, decoder 100 can transmit data in the S/PDIF (Sony-Phillips Digital Interface) format through a transmit port XMT.

[0026] Decoder 100 operates under the control of a host microprocessor through a host port HOST and supports debugging by an external debugging system through the debug port DEBUG. The CLK port supports the input of a master clock for generation of the timing signals within decoder 100.

[0027] While decoder 100 can be used to decompress other types of compressed digital data, it is particularly advantageous to use decoder 100 for decompression of AC-3 bitstreams.

[0028] Therefore, for understanding the utility and advantages of decoder 100, consider the case of when the compressed data received at the compressed data input (CDI) port has been compressed in accordance with the AC-3 standard.

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